

Join our park partners!

Learn about Sequoia Natural History Association activities and how to join this important group in the insert in this newspaper. One of our most important partners, the SNHA makes several activities possible here in the parks. Among many other programs, this nonprofit offers two seasonal favorites: the winter Pear Lake Ski Hut and the summer tours in beautiful Crystal Cave.

Read the insert to learn more about the SNHA, or look them up at www.sequoiahistory.org.



Pear Lake Ski Hut sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole, at 9,200 feet elevation (2804m). It is surrounded by glistening snowfields, icy rock walls, and a deep blue sky. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunk-beds and warm wood-pellet stove. It's a great opportunity to experience the high Sierra in winter.

Call 559-565-3759 for reservations (required), and check the insert for information on winter travel seminars with the Sequoia Field Institute.



Another group, the Sequoia Fund, has a long track record of helping these parks meet the challenges of tight federal budgets. Its mission is to find ways to do important things that the parks could not otherwise afford. The list of such projects is long and always growing: Without the Fund, there would be no Beetle Rock Education Center (above) and no Family Nature Program in Giant Forest.

Other projects include summer staffing for bear management, restoring vegetation, and a mobile exhibit about the park fire program.

They've started an initiative to explore the parks through art and develop new perspectives about the meaning of these parks. A major new project will place rangers in Central Valley classrooms to help teach about science and the national parks. Visit www.sequoiafund.org to learn more, or contact their office at 559-739-1668.

Activities

WALKS & TALKS Free ranger-led talks or walks (including snowshoe walks!) may be offered at Giant Forest, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, & the Foothills, usually on weekends. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled. Pages 8 & 9 have more details, or ask a ranger.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy (check out the new exhibits at the visitor center in Grant Grove). They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases at visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8 and 9 for hours and locations.

TEACHERS: BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Rangers offer fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th-grade classes in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date for your class, call 1-559-565-4303.

FIELD CLASSES & SEMINARS

See the exciting list of options for you on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award! Purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!



81st Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 10, 2006

This ceremony, at the base of the General Grant Tree in Grant Grove, honors those who have given their lives in service to their country. Sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce: 1-559-875-4575 for information.

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn more, and use a map to know where you are!

• **WALK A PET?** *In the Parks:* Not on trails but it's ok 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.

• **RIDE A BICYCLE?** *In the Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. *In National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

• **HAVE A FIRE?** *In the Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Fire permits required outside campgrounds & picnic-area grills. Get one at Grant Grove Visitor Center or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.

• **RIDE SNOWMOBILES?** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat, & Cherry Gap. For information: 559-243-4005.

• **GO CAMPING?** *In the Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

• **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** *Not in either area. Stay on roads.*

• **CUT WOOD?** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.

• **GO PICNICKING?** See picnic symbols on map (back page). *Never leave food unattended!* Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, & Powdercan.

• **GO FISHING?** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.

• **COLLECT THINGS?** *Not in Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem.* *In National Forest:* Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

• **HUNT?** *Not in the Parks.* *Firearms must be unloaded, inoperable & stored in way that prevents ready use prior to entering national parks.* *In National Forest:* Only during the season with a license. For information: 559-243-4005.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Closed for the season. Hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, & guided trips available summer into fall.

Cedar Grove
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove
1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Horse Corral
(at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest south of Grant Grove)
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell